

# Belper Urban District Council

## Annual Report OF THE Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1944

RICHARD CLAYTON ALLEN, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P.  
(Lond.), D.P.H. (Birm.)

### Report of the Sanitary Inspector

FRANCIS COSTELLO, A.R.San.I., Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Cert.  
Insp. Meat and other Foods.

Chairman of Council: COUNCILLOR H. G. MELBOURNE, J.P.

Chairman of Health Committee: COUNCILLOR J. W.  
BLACKHAM.

Clerk to Council: MR. J. PERCY R. PYM.

### GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	4,294
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£76,394
General Rate for 1944	...	...	...	...	...	12s.
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£307
Total Debt for all Purposes	...	...	...	£112,291	14s. 4d.	
Debt for Housing only	...	...	...	£79,971	2s. 1d.	
Number of Houses on Rate Book (no houses erected during 1944), 3,934.						
Number of Live Births registered: Boys 136, Girls 115	...	...	...	...	...	251
Number of Illegitimate Births: Boys 12, Girls 4	...	...	...	...	...	16
Still Births: Males 2, Females 4	...	...	...	...	...	6
Deaths of Infants under One year: Boys 2, Girls 3	...	...	...	...	...	5
Total Number of Deaths: Males 91, Females 85	...	...	...	...	...	176
Death Rate per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	...	...	12.57
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 births	...	...	...	...	...	19.52
(Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	46.00)

Riversdale,  
Belper,  
July, 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Belper Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my 24th Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the District. The Report is for the year ending 31st December, 1944.

The year may be regarded as very satisfactory from a health point of view. The total number of cases of Infectious Diseases (61), was the lowest for ten years.

Six cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, this being the lowest figure since 1935. There were four deaths from this disease as against six in 1943.

Thirty-three cases of Scarlet Fever is one more than in 1943, but this is many less than in previous years. The majority of cases were mild in character, and soon recovered, but there was one case which proved fatal.

Three cases of Diphtheria were notified, all of which recovered. It is interesting to note that in five years we have only had 18 cases of Diphtheria, whilst in 1939 alone there were 42 cases. Much of this reduction is no doubt due to the Immunisation Scheme. Up to date figures for immunisation show that more than 2,000 children have received the full treatment since the year 1941. About 200 of these children have now reached the age of 15 years, and are excluded from the percentages given, namely, 0 to 5 years, 40.17 per cent., and 5 to 15 years, 65.84 per cent.

Every effort has been made to induce parents to have their children immunised as soon as possible after reaching one year old, and sessions at which the children are treated free are held at the Clinic, Field Lane, on the last Wednesday of each month, between the hours of 2.30 and 4 p.m.

Measles, Whooping Cough, and Erysipelas showed good reductions compared with previous years, and there were no cases of Typhoid, Dysentery, Puerperal Pyrexia, or Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Comparisons can be made on the Tables on following pages, which show the incidence of Infectious Diseases over the past seven years.

Free private treatment can be obtained at the Derby Infirmary by persons suffering from Venereal Disease. Patients

should, however, obtain a letter from their private Doctor before presenting themselves. All local Doctors will give advice as to times and places of treatment.

The Council's arrangements for the treatment of Scabies has again proved very satisfactory. The local Doctors notify me of any cases they have, and the Nurse visits and gives treatment, the Council providing the materials and paying the Nurse's fees. During the year 38 cases were treated and re-visited to make sure recovery was in full.

The Council's Water Services have been fairly well maintained, and Analyst's reports show that the water is of good quality. I would, however, refer to the Sunnyhill area, where the houses near the top of the Hill are without water for several hours each day. I trust the Council will remedy this matter in their Post-War Schemes. Your Sanitary Inspector took a number of samples from the Strutt Estate Private Supply, which is from a reservoir, off Belper Lane, and known as the "Carr Supply." This reservoir supplies 108 houses and a number of business premises, and the supply was found to be both polluted and plumbo-solvent, containing lead in quantities sufficient to be presumed potentially dangerous to health. The Sanitary Inspector submitted for your consideration a report on this supply, together with an offer to make a gift of the undertaking to the Town. At the end of the year this matter was still under consideration, and I must ask the Council to see that this supply is made wholesome or cut off and the premises supplied from the Town's mains.

With the termination of the War in Europe, problems which have accumulated since 1939 must inevitably come up for consideration. At the time of writing this report, attention is being given to Housing, and I urge that the maximum number of houses be erected at the earliest possible date, so that overcrowding can be relieved, and that our returning Service men can find accommodation. Together with the Sanitary Inspector, I have inspected many houses, and a schedule containing about 80 houses has been prepared, and at an appropriate date will be reported to you with a view to demolition. There are also a number of instances where two houses should be made into one, to give more accommodation and facilities for washing and cooking, etc.

I would also refer to the 480 pail and privy closets which we still have in Belper, most of which could be converted to the water carriage system, sewers and water being available in the majority of cases. I would further mention the Makeney area, on which your Sanitary Inspector reported last year. In this area there are 20 houses with pail closets. The buildings are substantial, and sewers and drains are laid up to them. The owner is agreeable to convert these closets, but the water, which is supplied by Belper Rural District, is insufficient to supply water

closets. I have always noticed that the higher the standard of sanitation in any district, the less infectious disease there is, and I urge that as soon as labour and materials become available, as many pails and privies as possible be abolished.

The Council's refuse tip at Goods Road has been well cared for, but it is a great pity that the Destructor is not capable of dealing with all the refuse of the district. I feel that the situation of this tip is far from ideal, being closely situated to numerous dwelling houses and the Public Institution. I was rather interested in the scheme which your Sanitary Inspector submitted two years ago, in which he advocated a small separation plant to remove cinders and ashes, the remainder of the refuse other than salvage to be burned at the destructor, and the ash to be tipped. I would like the Council to consider this scheme. I think it would be a progressive move, and there would be no nuisance from the tipping of ash.

I have inspected all the schools of the district and found them in a cleanly condition. The children appeared to be tidy and healthy.

Numerous farms have been visited, and I have been satisfied in all cases with the cleanliness of the cowsheds and dairies, many structural alterations having been carried out to such premises during the year.

On the following pages you will find certain figures and comparisons, and I take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council, the Clerk (Mr. J. Percy R. Pym), and the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. F. Costello), for their help and co-operation during the past year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

RICHARD C. ALLEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

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### **INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

The following table shows the rise and fall of the various notifiable diseases during the past seven years.



	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis. ...	6	7	9	9	13	7	6
Non-pulmonary ditto .....	5	10	2	1	6	2	1
Scarlet Fever .....	44	40	67	53	80	32	33
Diphtheria .....	14	42	5	5	3	2	3
Erysipelas .....	4	4	3	6	6	4	3
Pneumonia .....	6	6	8	11	2	1	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	2	2	1	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever .....	—	—	6	3	—	—	—
Tubercular Meningitis .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	—	—	31	264	197	42	5
Whooping Cough .....	—	14	3	40	4	8	5
Totals .....	81	126	138	393	311	99	61

During the year 176 persons died—91 males and 85 females—an increase of nine over the previous year, and 26 on the year 1942. The Death Rate was 12.57, compared with 11.8 in 1943, and 10.25 in 1942. (The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.6.)

The following tables give the causes of the deaths registered in 1944.

	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever .....	—	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	2	2
Syphilitic Diseases .....	1	—
Influenza .....	—	1
Cancer .....	10	14
Diabetes .....	1	1
Cerebro Haemorrhage .....	12	9
Heart Disease .....	30	24
Other Circulatory Diseases .....	1	4
Bronchitis .....	9	2
Pneumonia .....	3	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum .....	2	1
Diarrhoea, under two years .....	—	1
Appendicitis .....	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases .....	1	4
Nephritis .....	3	2
Premature Birth .....	1	—
Congenital Debility .....	—	1
Suicide .....	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents .....	1	—
Other Violent Causes .....	3	—
All Other Causes .....	10	14
Totals .....	91	85

Births registered during the year totalled 251, 136 males and 115 females. The total represents an increase of 22 over the previous year, and an increase of 12 over 1942. The Birth Rate was 17.93, as against 16.18 in 1943, and 16.33 in 1942. There were six still births, a decrease of six. (Birth Rate for England and Wales was 17.6.) There were 16 illegitimate births.

**CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AT THE VARYING AGES DURING 1944.**

	Under 1 year.	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	60	Ttl.
Scarlet													
Fever	—	1	1	—	2	17	7	3	1	1	—	—	33
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	3
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	1	5
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	5
Whooping													
Cough	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	5
Pulmonary													
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	2	6
Non-													
Pulmonary													
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	—	1	1	1	4	21	13	5	4	5	—	6	61

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present my Fifth Annual Report, which is for the year ended 31st December, 1944.

As reported last year, the work of the Department increases, and the number of records which have to be kept, e.g., Salvage, Immunisation, Infectious Diseases, etc., means that a considerable portion of my time is taken up with clerical work. I feel that the Council will have to provide some clerical assistance in the future, so that I shall have more time free to carry out duties under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

It has been possible to have quite a lot of housing repairs effected, and many nuisances abated. In fact, considering the number of years the war has lasted, the position may be regarded as not unsatisfactory.

I have a list of 80 houses which I will report to you with a view to demolition at an appropriate date, but taking the district generally most houses are weather-proof, and there is no serious disrepair arising out of war-time conditions. I realise that houses cannot be condemned until more have been erected to meet the needs of the district. However, I feel that the Council should be aware that there are at least 80 houses which I should like to see demolished as soon as possible, and a further number which should have two houses made into one, so as to give better accommodation and better amenities. The overcrowding situation will also require to be reviewed at an early date.

## NOTICES COMPLIED WITH.

Additional Closets Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Conversion of Tipplers to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Conversion of Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
New Closets Erected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New W.C. Cisterns to Replace Broken Ones	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
New W.C. Basins to Replace Broken Ones	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Other Repairs to Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective or Choked Drains made good	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Houses Connected to Town's Sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New Firegrates Fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Repairs to Firegrates (e.g., ovens, side boilers, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Repairs to Roof Spouting and Downpipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Defective Roofs Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

Repairs to Chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defective Plasterwork made good (No. of rooms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
New Windows Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Repairs to Windows	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Houses given through ventilation by the provision of back doors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Repairs to Doors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Provision of Washing Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Repairs to Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Pointing of Walls to abate dampness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Provision of Glazed Sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dirty and Verminous Houses Cleansed and Fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
New Dustbins Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	183

Inspections and Re-visits with regard to the above work, together with Inspections of Farms, Cowsheds, Food Premises, and Drainage Works, amounted to 1,067.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

At the end of 1944 there were: 3,278 Water Closets.  
338 Pail Closets.  
142 Privy Middens.

Three Tippler Closets and Four Pail Closets were converted to the Water Carriage System during the year. New Sanitary Conveniences were erected at a factory, together with Wash-places, to bring same up to modern requirements.

The Nightsoil Collection is done by a Contractor for the sum of £8 15s. 0d. per week, the contract being advertised each year. It is pleasing to note that during the whole of the year only one complaint was received.

The Public Health Act, 1936, gives the Local Authority power to make grants towards converting Closets to the Water Carriage System, and it is hoped that Landlords will take advantage of this grant and abolish as many pails and privies as possible. Alternately, the Council have the power to compel conversions under certain circumstances, and it is hoped greater use will be made of such power.

### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

As in previous years, I am again pleased to report that despite the many difficulties met with during the year, almost a weekly collection of refuse prevailed throughout the district.



The refuse was disposed of as follows:—

				Destructor.		Tip.
Wagon	...	...	...	158	...	865 Loads
Team	...	...	...	857	...	87 Loads

I estimate that during the year, 1,360 tons of refuse was disposed of at the Destructor, and 2,280 tons at the Goods Road Tip.

The Council sold more than one gross of dustbins during the year, and a further 183 were provided after an intimation from me. It is pleasing to note that there are no ashpits in the district, and every effort is made to ensure that every house has a proper dustbin in sound condition.

Salvage work took up much time and trouble; 257 tons of salvage sold realised £1,027, of which £282 was profit.

### **WATER SUPPLIES.**

Twelve samples of water from private supplies were examined during the year. Arising out of such examinations, two cottages were connected to the Council's Supply after the serving of notices.

Samples taken from houses supplied by the Strutt Carr Reservoir showed that such water was polluted and plumbosolvent, lead being present in such quantities as to be undesirable in drinking water. There are 108 houses and a few business premises connected to this supply, and the owner of the houses and water supply indicated he was prepared to make a gift of the water undertaking and all services if the Council would accept. I reported on this supply at the Council's meeting in November, 1944, and the matter was under discussion at the end of the year.

The Council's Surveyor took a number of samples from the Public Supply, and all were found to be satisfactory, chlorination still being carried out.

So far as I know, there are only eight houses supplied by private wells; all other houses are connected to the Town's Supply, with the exception of 108 mentioned above. All houses have a piped supply into them, with the exception of ten, four of which were being dealt with at the end of the year.

### **PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.**

A number of visits were made, and the water on all occasions appeared to be very satisfactory. Two samples were taken, and the analyses showed that the water was completely sterile, proving that the chlorination plant was up to its work.

## **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODSTUFFS.**

During the year the following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption: Corned beef, 52lbs.; pork, 404lbs.; pork luncheon meat, 28lbs.; sugar, 140lbs.; rice, 112lbs.; flour, 16lbs.; cheese, 9lbs.; sausages, 9lbs.; tinned jam, 45lbs.; tinned milk, 9 tins; beans, 13 tins; sausage rusks, 12cwts.; cod roe, 126lbs.; fish, 266lbs.

In cases where the quantity of food is fairly large, it is returned to the Ministry of Food for salvage.

Many visits were made to premises where food is prepared, and usually were found to be in a cleanly condition.

## **DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.**

Fifty-five inspections were made, and as a result of notices being served, ten cowsheds were limewashed, additional windows were provided to five cowsheds, and drains re-laid to four other buildings. New dairies were provided to two other farms.

Twelve samples of milk were analysed for tuberculosis, and as a result two cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order. Fourteen samples were submitted to the "methylene blue test," ten of which satisfied the test. Twelve samples tested for B.Coli were satisfactory, while two samples were considered unsatisfactory. In all cases of unsatisfactory milk, I visited the farms to give advice and see the milking carried out.

Following complaints received from householders concerning milk from a farm in an adjoining district, I took samples of such milk and had same analysed. The analysis showed that "Colostrum" was mixed with the milk. At an interview with the farmer concerned, he expressed his wish to be removed from the Register as a Milk Retailer, and this request was granted.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

Forty-six houses were fumigated after infectious disease, and the usual enquiries made. Eight other houses were fumigated for vermin infestation.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the help afforded me during the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

F. COSTELLO,

Sanitary Inspector.



